GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:562
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
CONDITIONAL ACCESS SYSTEM
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the viewers to the Conditional Access System (CAS) in Delhi and other cities where it was introduced earlier;

(b) whether CAS has now been extended to some other areas and cities as well;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of extension of CAS in these areas; and

(d) the details regarding the benefits and the additional liabilities on the viewers under CAS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 562 FOR ANSWER ON 15.5.2007.

(a): The response in terms of penetration of Set Top Boxes (STB) amongst the cable TV households as reported by the multi-system operators indicate that more than 5 lac STBs (Delhi 2.1 lac, Mumbai 2.4 lac, and Kolkata 0.6 lac) have been installed/delivered out of 15 lac estimated cable TV households in the CAS notified areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. This also reflects a conscious decision on the part of the remaining households who have not opted for STBs to prefer other options such as watching Free to Air (FTA) channels, DTH, DD direct etc for the present.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise

(d): Some of the Benefits to the viewers are:-

i) facility to choose individual pay channels and pay only for the channels chosen
ii) facility to watch only FTA channels without the need to have STBs
iii) better viewing experience as a result of better quality of transmission of channels
iv) possibility of exercising control over monthly cable bills through a careful selection of pay channels
(v) facility to prevent content perceived to be not suitable for viewing
(vi) facility of electronic programming guide
(vii) availability of regulatory framework in the form of ceiling on maximum retail price per pay channel; maximum basic service tier charges, rental rates for supply of set top boxes and Quality of service standards to be observed by the service providers.
Some of the additional Liabilities on the viewers are-
i) making choice for procuring STBs
ii) specific choice of channels and balancing it with monthly household budget.